

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enabling a proxy client in a secured network to access a target service on behalf of a user, comprising the steps of:

registering proxy authorization information regarding the user with a trusted security server, the proxy authorization information identifying the proxy client and an extent of proxy authorization granted the proxy client by the user, ~~the extent of proxy authorization comprising a restriction on a range of target services that the proxy client may access on behalf of the user;~~

submitting, by the proxy client, a proxy request to the trusted security server requesting access to the target service on behalf of the user;

comparing, by the trusted security server, the proxy request with the registered proxy authorization information of the user to determine whether to grant the proxy request;

issuing, by the trusted security service, a data structure containing authentication data recognizable by the target service for authenticating the proxy client for accessing the target service on behalf of the user, if it is determined to grant the proxy request.

2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the data structure is a ticket containing a session key for use in a session formed between the proxy client and the target service.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the ticket is encrypted with a secret key shared by the target service and the trusted security server.

4. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of comparing determines whether a proxy duration specified by the proxy authorization information has expired.

5. (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein the step of submitting the request includes transmitting a ticket for authenticating the proxy client to the trusted security server.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instruction for a trusted security server to perform the steps:

storing proxy authorization information from a user for authorizing a proxy client to act as a proxy of the user, the proxy authorization information identifying an extent of proxy authorization granted the proxy client by the user;

receiving a proxy request from the proxy client to access a target service on behalf of the user;

determining, based on the stored proxy authorization information of the user, whether to grant the proxy request;

constructing a data structure containing authentication data recognizable by the target service for authenticating the proxy client for accessing the target service on behalf of the user, if it is determined to grant the proxy request.

7. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 6, having further computer-executable instruction for performing the step of authenticating the user based on a password of the user before storing the proxy authorization information.

8. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 6, wherein the step of receiving the proxy request includes authenticating the proxy client based on a ticket issued to the proxy client for communicating with the trusted security server.

9. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 6, having further computer-executable instruction for performing the step of sending the data structure to the proxy client for presenting to the target service the authentication of the proxy client.

10. (Original) A computer-readable medium as in claim 6, wherein the data structure is encrypted with a key shared by the target service and the trusted security server.

11-17. (Canceled).

18. (New) A method as in claim 1, wherein the extent of proxy authorization comprises a restriction on a range of target services that the proxy client may access on behalf of the user.

19. (New) A method as in claim 1, further comprising accessing, by the proxy client, the target service, the accessing being in a batch mode without user intervention.

20. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps:

receiving a proxy request from a first user to access a target service, wherein access to the target service is restricted to a set of one or more users that excludes the first user and includes a second user;

comparing the proxy request with a plurality of proxy authorizations maintained in the first data structure to determine whether to grant the proxy request,

wherein each proxy authorization identifies a user granting proxy authorization, a user receiving proxy authorization and an extent of proxy authorization; and

issuing a second data structure containing data recognizable by the target service for authenticating the first user to access the target service as a proxy of the second user, if the proxy request is granted.

21. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 20, wherein the extent of proxy authorization comprises a restriction on a range of target services that the proxy client may access on behalf of the user.

22. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 20, wherein the extent of proxy authorization comprises a restriction on a duration that the first client can act as a proxy of the second user.

23. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 20, wherein the second data structure is a ticket containing a key for use in a session formed between the first client and the target service.

24. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 20, further comprising authenticating the first client based on a ticket issued to the first client for communicating the proxy request.

25. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 20, further comprising:
receiving proxy authorization information regarding a given user; and
storing proxy authorization information regarding the given user in the first
data structure.

26. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 25, wherein:
the proxy authorization information regarding the given user is received from
the given user; and
the identity of the given user is authenticated.

27. (New) A computer-readable medium as in claim 25, wherein:
the proxy authorization information regarding the given user is received from
an administrator; and
the identity of the administrator is authenticated.